

# OREGON CROP WEATHER



OREGON  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS  
SERVICE

Volume: 16-03  
Released: July 21, 2003  
Week Ending: July 20, 2003

Phone: 503 326-2131  
Toll Free: 1-800-338-2157  
E-Mail: [nass-or@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-or@nass.usda.gov)

National website at: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/pubs/pubs.htm>  
Oregon website at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/or>

**Weather:** Temperatures remained hot throughout most of the State, with the normal dry conditions and low humidity. High temperatures were well over 100 degrees in many areas. La Grande received just over 0.3 inches of precipitation and Redmond received almost 0.2 inches; elsewhere, no major precipitation was recorded. Several small fires were reported in Union County, with no major damage. A larger wildfire was reported in the Willamette National Forest in Lane County. According to the National Interagency Fire Center, fire danger indices in Oregon ranged from very high to extreme. Growing degree days exceeded 100 across much of the State; Ontario and Rome each recorded growing degree days in excess of 200.

**Field Crops:** Haying continued State wide. Most areas were in their second cutting of alfalfa and grass hay. Wheat harvest started in Malheur County. The Sherman County wheat harvest was underway and will be in full swing next week. Wheat yields looked normal but protein will be higher than normal. Some post-harvest rainfall would be beneficial to next year's seeding conditions. Spring planted dryland grain was maturing rapidly in Union County. In the Willamette Valley, the grass seed harvest continued. Hot temperatures and no rain fall continued to stress already stressed crops. Straw baling was underway. Wheat combining started in Marion County and was nearing harvest in Washington County. Crimson clover was harvested in Washington County and red clover was blooming.

**Vegetables:** Vegetables were doing well and most were available at farmer markets. Available at the markets included tomatoes, cucumbers, green beans, carrots, broccoli and cauliflower. Early sweet corn was about two weeks off. Early plantings were shoulder high. Growers were busy cultivating, weeding, fertilizing and a lot of irrigating. Klamath potatoes were 50% flowering and 40% with rows closed. Early potatoes were yielding 20 tons per acre in Umatilla County.

**Nurseries and Greenhouses:** Nurseries were doing lots of stock watering, feeding and weeding. Greenhouses were still moving some summer plants and getting started with fall flowers.

**Fruit:** Early peaches were harvested in the Willamette Valley and southern Oregon. Sweet cherry harvest was winding down in most areas with tart cherry harvest underway in Yamhill County. Lane County raspberry and blueberry harvests were in full swing. Blueberries and caneberries were harvested in Jackson County. Blackberries were just coming on in Josephine County. Nearly all fruit producing areas required irrigation.

**Livestock, Range and Pasture:** Warmer than average temperatures without moisture matured, browned or stressed pastures. Most livestock in Jackson County were on irrigated or higher ranges. Animals on irrigated ground still looked good. Some supplemental feeding. Range conditions were deteriorating rapidly in Wallowa County. Without moisture, some producers will be forced to start hauling water. Conditions were ripe for wildfires, but only small ones were reported.

**Crop Progress Week Ending 7/20/03**

	This week	Previous week	Last year	5 year average
All Barley headed (%)	97	93	100	—
Winter wheat harvested (%)	35	7	29	13
Days suitable for fieldwork	6.9	7.0	—	—

**Soil Moisture Week Ending 7/20/03**

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil (%)	25	52	23	—
Subsoil (%)	22	51	27	—

**Crop Condition Week Ending 7/20/03**

	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Barley (%)	2	13	33	40	12
Range & Pasture (%)	6	13	42	34	5

**COOS/CURRY:** Hay harvest has essentially finished (first cutting); irrigation underway where second cutting available to grow. Some grass silage cutting taking place. Warm temperatures are helping corn grow. Inland valley blueberries were ripening. Fair weather without cold winds helped cranberry fruit set and sizing. Dry weather continued with more sunshine and warm breezes. Air and soil temperatures increased, which aided nitrogen uptake in crops. Average air temperatures at coastal AgriMet weather stations ranged from 60.4 to 61.8 degrees F; highs ranged from 68.6 to 76.1 degrees F, and lows ranged from 50.4 to 51.8 degrees F. Precipitation ranged from 0.00" at Bandon to 0.04" at Brookings-Harbor. Growing degree days (base 50 degrees F) ranged from 80 GDD at Bandon to 83 GDD at Brookings-Harbor.

**JACKSON:** Hot and dry conditions continue to limit growth in non-irrigated fields, except for alfalfa on deep soils. Irrigation results in good growth of field crops. Orchards continued to be irrigated. Pest problems are few and crop appears to be sizing well. Grain harvest continued, mostly for barley and winter wheat. Second cutting of alfalfa being done; yields are average to good on irrigated fields. Silage corn showing good growth. Still some first cuttings of grass hay; most is overripe and tops dry. Some peach harvest underway. Apples and pears showing good growth. Irrigation continued on fruit. Cover sprays being applied as well as some foliar feeding. Blueberry harvest underway as well as some caneberries. Vegetables being cultivated, weeded, fertilized and lots of irrigation being applied. Greenhouses doing routine maintenance and getting fall planning and some planting started. Nurseries busy with fertilizing, watering and maintenance of existing stock, while also working with new stock that has been planted. Most all livestock now on irrigated land or moved to higher ranges. The continued hot, dry days have really put a lot of stress on pasture ground. Animals on irrigated ground still look good. Some operators with pasture being used up are doing some supplemental feeding. Again this week's day temperatures were in the mid to high nineties and nights in the high fifties.

**JOSEPHINE:** Extremely hot, dry and windy at times. Just watering and watching everything grow now. Very dry conditions where there is no water. Blackberries are just starting to come on. Hope they are able to finish the ripening process before they dry on the vine. Last year, unless they were around a pond or other water source, they were just seeds.

**LANE:** Grass seed, hay and alfalfa being harvested. The cherry crop was good and nearing the end. Early peaches being harvested. Most strawberries finished. Raspberries and blueberries in full harvest and had good yields. Blackberry harvest started; large yields anticipated. Vegetable crops coming into markets. Early sweet corn two weeks off. Tomatoes, cucumbers, green beans, carrots, broccoli, and cauliflower being harvested. Every crop in this location seems to be off in weight by 20-30%.

**LINN:** Another week of very hot temperatures and no rainfall continued to stress already stressed crops.

**MARION:** Snap beans being harvested. Grass seed harvest is in full swing. Straw baling and stacking underway. Wheat combining started. First wheat thrashed looks good.

**WASHINGTON:** Crimson clover finished with good yields. Red clover blooming. Second cutting of alfalfa baled and stored. Sweet corn shoulder high in early plantings. Wheat nearing harvest. Grass for seed being combined with fair to good yield. Nursery stock growing well. Vegetables doing well and most varieties selling at farmer markets. Cherries nearing end of season. Grapes looking good. Hazelnuts filling and walnuts sizing. Three days in the nineties; up to ninety four degrees with low of fifty four degrees. No rain and few clouds. Irrigation water supply adequate. Pastures dry, supplemental feeding will start soon.

**YAMHILL:** Hazelnut growers were spraying for hazelnut worm control. Earliest peach varieties are being harvested. Tart cherry harvest is underway.

## EASTERN OREGON

**DESCHUTES:** Second cutting of hay and grass seed underway.

**HARNEY:** Hot, dry weather has been very good for hay harvest but tough on the remaining soil moisture out on the range. Pastures turning brown. Fire danger rating went to Red Flag at the end of the week, although there are no active fires at this time.

**HOOD RIVER:** Late cherry varieties being harvested in lower Hood River Valley; early varieties being harvested in Parkdale. Routine summer orchard operations continued throughout the Hood River Valley.

**KLAMATH:** Potatoes are 50% flowering and 40% rows closed. Hot, dry weather has progressed range maturity. High elevation is in excellent condition. Lower elevation has matured. Second hay cutting underway.

**LAKE:** North end beginning second cutting on alfalfa. Irrigation water from reservoirs and ground water is still adequate.

**MALHEUR:** Hot weather continued with temperatures near 100 degrees. Wheat harvest started. One report of shriveling in wheat. Several areas of downed wheat due to earlier storms will affect yield and quality.

**SHERMAN:** The weather is hot, hot, HOT! Harvest will get into full swing next week, with all areas of the county anticipating to start by then. A bit later than usual. Wheat harvest is around normal in yields but the kernels are shrunken and pinched. Lighter in weight and higher in protein than normal. Could use a little rain after harvest to improve next year's seeding conditions.

**UMATILLA:** Early potato yields are normal at approximately 20 tons per acre. Weather has been cooperative with hay harvest. Grass seed yields down on dryland fields. Second cutting of hay well underway. Extremely hot and dry. Cherry harvest underway.

**UNION:** Spring planted dryland grain maturing rapidly. Grass seed yields down on dryland fields. Second cutting of hay well underway. Most baling being done at night or early morning. Very low humidity. Extremely hot and dry. Cherry harvest underway. Several small forest fires during the last week but nothing serious.

**WALLOWA:** Dryland crop quality and range conditions are deteriorating very rapidly due to the hot, dry weather. Unless we receive some moisture, some livestock producers will be forced to start hauling water in the next couple of weeks.

**WEATHER DATA FOR SELECTED STATIONS IN OREGON WEEK ENDING JULY 20, 2003 (as of 11:00 am)**

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS BASE-50F		LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIPITATION			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
<b>COASTAL AREAS</b>													
Astoria/Clatsop	48	77	63	3	92	22	0.19	-0.03	1	59.86	-4.88	92	177
Crescent City	50	66	59	0	62	6	0.00	-0.07	0	64.22	2.01	103	142
Florence	43	78	63	3	90	20	0.00	-0.15	0	75.22	0.35	100	148
North Bend	50	70	63	4	91	27	0.00	-0.07	0	64.22	2.01	103	142
Tillamook	43	75	61	4	79	23	0.00	-0.34	0	83.53	-2.90	97	167
<b>WILLAMETTE VALLEY</b>													
Corvallis	48	87	69	4	135	23	0.00	-0.08	0	33.28	-8.38	80	119
Eugene	46	94	69	2	136	12	0.00	-0.07	0	40.10	-8.02	83	143
Hillsboro	50	92	69	4	136	24	0.00	-0.07	0	36.06	-0.26	99	141
McMinnville	47	93	70	4	139	27	0.00	-0.10	0	39.99	-2.34	94	150
Portland	56	91	72	5	158	28	0.00	-0.12	0	33.57	-1.43	96	143
Salem	51	93	70	4	144	28	0.00	-0.13	0	39.40	1.13	103	145
<b>SW VALLEYS</b>													
Grants Pass	56	97	76	4	181	27	0.00	0.00	0	33.05	2.63	109	107
Medford	57	99	77	4	187	25	0.00	-0.02	0	22.49	4.26	123	103
Roseburg	54	97	73	5	165	33	0.00	-0.07	0	31.79	-0.17	99	124
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>													
Condon	47	97	69	3	135	22	0.00	-0.07	0	12.70	-0.50	96	101
Heppner	51	100	73	4	163	26	0.00	-0.07	0	11.29	-1.82	86	102
Hermiston	50	102	76	3	181	20	0.00	0.00	0	7.74	-0.72	91	76
John Day	52	101	77	9	190	57	0.00	-0.07	0	11.03	-1.17	90	98
Moro	49	94	71	4	150	24	0.00	-0.04	0	9.94	-0.60	94	78
Pendleton	53	102	77	4	190	27	0.00	-0.07	0	11.30	-0.08	99	94
The Dalles	55	98	77	11	190	71	0.00	-0.03	0	13.89	1.99	117	85
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>													
Bend	44	96	69	6	132	35	0.00	-0.08	0	7.19	-3.78	66	63
Burns	47	99	73	7	163	44	0.00	-0.07	0	7.87	-1.29	86	81
Klamath Falls	46	94	70	2	137	11	0.00	-0.07	0	10.96	-1.80	86	85
Lakeview	48	95	71	4	147	26	0.00	-0.07	0	3.64	-11.33	24	44
Redmond	43	99	70	5	146	34	0.19	0.12	1	7.21	-0.67	91	71
<b>NORTHEAST</b>													
Baker City	46	99	72	5	153	34	0.00	-0.09	0	8.76	-0.98	90	88
Joseph	45	96	73	13	160	87	0.00	-0.14	0	18.82	-4.66	80	135
La Grande	54	100	76	7	183	44	0.34	0.23	1	11.23	-5.10	69	97
Union	50	100	74	8	172	54	0.00	-0.11	0	14.83	2.17	117	115
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>													
Ontario	57	108	85	8	244	55	0.00	-0.01	0	8.09	-1.09	88	73
Rome	51	104	80	8	212	55	0.00	-0.07	0	6.58	-1.10	86	69

Summary based on National Weather Service data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Sunday, September 1, 2002.

DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

Copyright 2003: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Janice A. Goodwin, State Statistician

Oregon Crop Weather 16-03  
Kevin Young, Math Statistician